

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

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Public Notice No. 7-01-22

**NOTICE OF INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
NUTRIENT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS FOR THE  
SALTON SEA**

The Regional Board staff is seeking participation from concerned, interested, and affected private and public entities in a Technical Advisory Committee to help staff develop a nutrient total maximum daily load (TMDL) and a plan for TMDL implementation for the Salton Sea.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires that the State identify and prioritize water bodies which do not meet water quality standards and beneficial uses after implementation of required point source effluent limitations. In October, 2001, the Regional Board will be reviewing for adoption a revised 303(d) list of impaired water bodies, which includes the Alamo River, Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel, Imperial Valley Agricultural Drains, New River, and Salton Sea. The pollutants impairing these waters are pesticides, selenium, and silt for the Alamo River and Imperial Valley Drains; pathogens for the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel; pathogens, dissolved oxygen, pesticides, silt, trash, and volatile organic constituents (VOCs) for the New River; and nutrients, salt, and selenium for the Salton Sea.

Federal regulations dictate that the State establish TMDLs for these pollutants. A TMDL:

- Is a written quantitative assessment of water quality problems and contributing pollutant sources;
- Specifies the amount to which a pollutant needs to be reduced for the purpose of meeting water quality standards;
- Allocates pollutant load reductions among pollutant sources in a watershed and provides the basis for taking actions needed to restore a waterbody; and
- Is developed and implemented to ensure the impaired waters achieve their designated water quality standards and beneficial uses.

## **TMDL PRIORITY**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has requested that the Regional Board develop 23 TMDLs by the year 2013. Pursuant to this request, Regional Board staff will develop a TMDL for nutrients in the Salton Sea as top priority in Imperial and Riverside County. Prioritization was based on the need and feasibility of developing a TMDL, the severity of the problems and the value of the water body. TMDL for nutrients in the Salton Sea is expected to be completed by December, 2004.

## **TMDL DEVELOPMENT/IMPLEMENTATION**

Developing a TMDL and its implementation plan generally include the following elements:

1. Problem Statement
2. Identification of needed pollution reduction/control
3. Identification of Pollution Sources
4. Allocation of allowable pollution loads for identified sources (includes margin of safety)
5. Development of Implementation Plan
6. Monitoring and Evaluation
7. Revision of TMDLs based on evaluation.

For a more detailed explanation of these elements, please contact the Regional Board staff named below.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Regional Board has legal responsibility for ensuring public participation in the TMDL process. Public participation is crucial for successful TMDL development and implementation, and participation can be achieved through stakeholder groups and the general public. Stakeholder groups can be defined as those groups of people or organizations that have interest in or are affected by the TMDL process. These groups can originate from governmental, private or public sectors within the vicinity. Stakeholders within this territory include the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Environmental Protection Agency, Imperial Irrigation District, County of Imperial, Salton Sea Authority (SSA), academia, environmental groups, farmers and the public at large. The Regional Board will be providing periodic, up-to-date information about TMDL activities to interested parties. At the same time, to facilitate two-way communication with stakeholders, the Regional Board welcomes any comments or relevant input from stakeholders and the public into the TMDL process. Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the limitations or extent of the TMDLs, or other aspects of this matter, are requested to do so at the earliest practicable date so that the comments may be considered in preparing draft TMDLs.

To intensify stakeholder participation, the Regional Board staff is proposing to form a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for development and implementation of the nutrient TMDL. The TAC will play an important role in the TMDL process and is expected to provide expert resources, scientific evaluations and conclusions, and recommendations

regarding specific TMDL activities. TAC participation will be limited to those entities wishing to be involved to this extent. Moreover, to the degree possible and to avoid duplicative efforts, TAC activities will be coordinated with the groups and agencies involved in the Salton Sea restoration effort ( e.g., the Salton Sea Authority).

TAC members are expected to assist Regional Board Staff to develop the TMDL and Implementation Plan in a relevant and timely manner. More specifically, members are expected to assist Regional Board staff with:

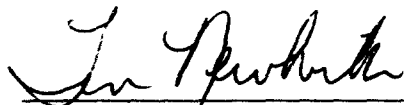
- Water quality monitoring activities.
- Research activities regarding fate and transport of nutrients.
- Development/Identification of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for nutrient management.
- Development of a Numeric Target.
- Development of Implementation Plans.
- Development of the other sections of the TMDL Report.

Interested participants are requested to file with the Regional Board a letter of intent at the earliest practicable date but by no later than October, 15, 2001. The letter of intent should outline, as appropriate, an area of expertise, available resources, and main concerns. All comments and correspondence related to this matter should be addressed to the Regional board at the address shown above.

The following organizations/individual have a place reserved in the Salton Sea Nutrient TMDL TAC:

- Coachella Valley Water District
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Imperial County
- Imperial County Farm Bureau
- Riverside County
- Riverside County Farm Bureau
- Salton Sea Authority
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Mr. John Pierre Menvielle

Please contact Ms Teresa Newkirk at (760) 776-8931 or Dr. Francisco Costa (760) 776-8932 for any questions regarding this matter. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who should be interested in this matter.



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